

# DRUG ABUSE, ADDICTS AND RECOVERY

 "CHANGE MAKES A DIFFERENCE" 

Julie A Perry, GFWC WV President's Special Project Chairman

For the next two years, GFWC WV President Helen Moren has chosen "Change Makes a Difference" as her theme with Drug Abuse, Addicts and Recovery as her President's Special Project.

WVARR, West Virginia Alliance of Recovery Residences will be the program's main project. The term "Recovery Residence" is a broad term describing a sober, safe, and healthy living environment that promotes recovery from alcohol, drug use, and associated problems. Many thousands exist in the United States that vary in size, organization, and targeted population. Recovery Residences offer peer-to-peer recovery support with some providing professionally delivered clinical services all aimed at promoting long term recovery. The purpose of a Recovery Residence is to provide a safe and healthy living environment to initiate and sustain recovery, which means abstinence from alcohol and other non-prescribed drug use and improvement in one's physical, mental, spiritual, and social well-being. Skills developed while living in recovery residence will continue to support the resident's recovery as they transition to living independently and productively in the community.

Currently WVARR is funded through a grant issued by the Office of Drug Control Policy and managed by the WV Bureau of Behavioral Health. It has two full time employees and will soon add two full time staff reviewers. There are a Board of Directors comprised of twelve individuals from across the state. Eight of the twelve directors are recovery residence operators, and eight identify as people in long term recovery.

HOW CAN WE HELP "CHANGE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?"

This year we are asking for monetary support. Your donations will be used by WVARR to pay a recovered resident's first month's rent or deposit after leaving the Recovery Residence. Funds will also be used to purchase kitchen appliances, such as refrigerators and stoves, if needed, as well as start-up cleaning supplies, linens, towels, etc. You will be given more information and other ways to support this program at GFWC WV Summer Conference. Please send any monetary support to GFWC WV TREASURER, LINDA WALKER at 909 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Vienna, WV 26105.

Thank you for your support of this very important project. The lives you touch may be someone that you know.